

# **Biodiversity and whole farm approaches**

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**PES Working Group**

## Introducing the Wild Farm Alliance



**Since 2000, Wild Farm Alliance  
has been working with farmers  
to achieve healthy, viable  
agriculture that protects and  
restores wild nature.**

# Principles of “wild farming”

## **The four principles of Wild Farming are easy to see:**

1. Soil is kept covered with plants.
2. Flowers are present.
3. Native trees and shrubs are part of the farm.
4. Wildlife, from bees and birds to larger animals, are present.

Improve  
soil health

Enhance  
crop  
resilience

Increase  
carbon  
storage

Increase  
stormwater  
storage  
capacity

Reduce agricultural  
runoff to waters

## PES WG Outcomes

*How does “wild farming” fit with PES working group charges?*

*Soil health metrics (from research team)*



# Indicators

*Quantitative indicators*

Crop yields

Forage  
recovery  
between  
grazing (forage  
height, cover)

Downstream  
flooding

Diversity of above  
ground beneficial  
organisms (insects,  
birds, mammals,  
etc.)

# Indicators

*Qualitative/visual indicators*

Flowering  
plant  
abundance

Diversity and  
abundance of  
noncrop habitat

Diversity of  
pasture and  
hayfield  
species

Water holding  
capacity and  
drought  
resistance

# Indicators

*In-field practices*

Reduced  
tillage

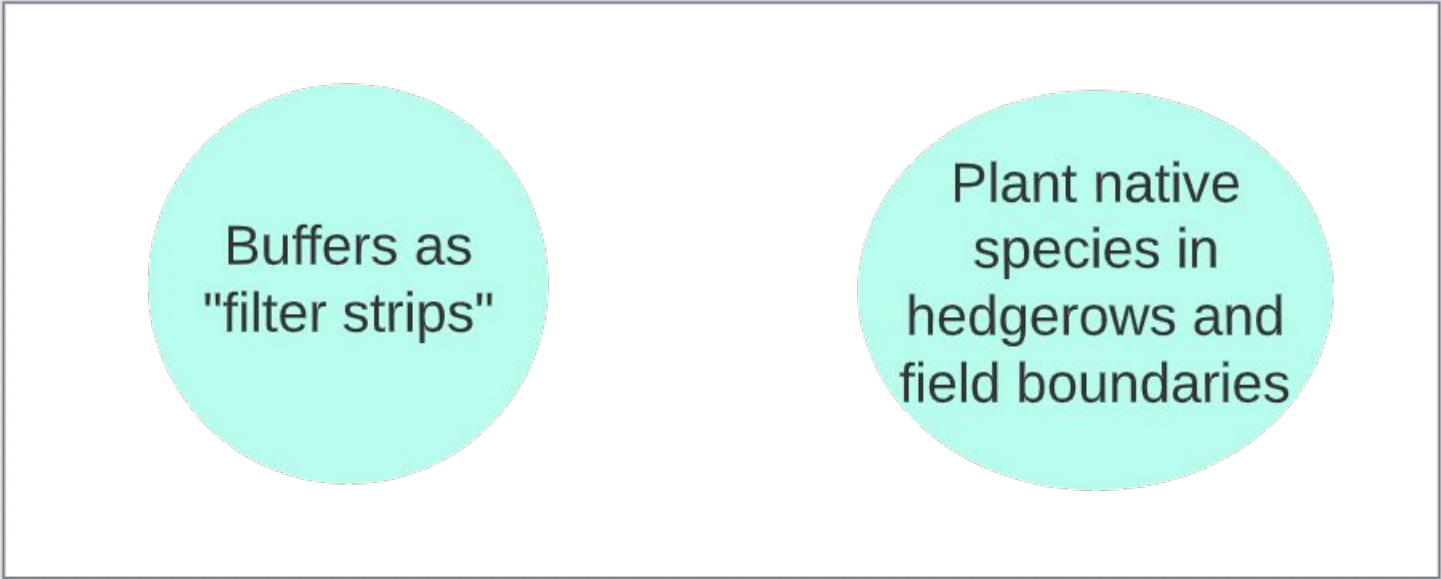
Keep soil  
covered

Seed  
multi species  
cover crop  
and pasture  
mixes

Well-designed  
rotational  
grazing



*Edge of field practices*



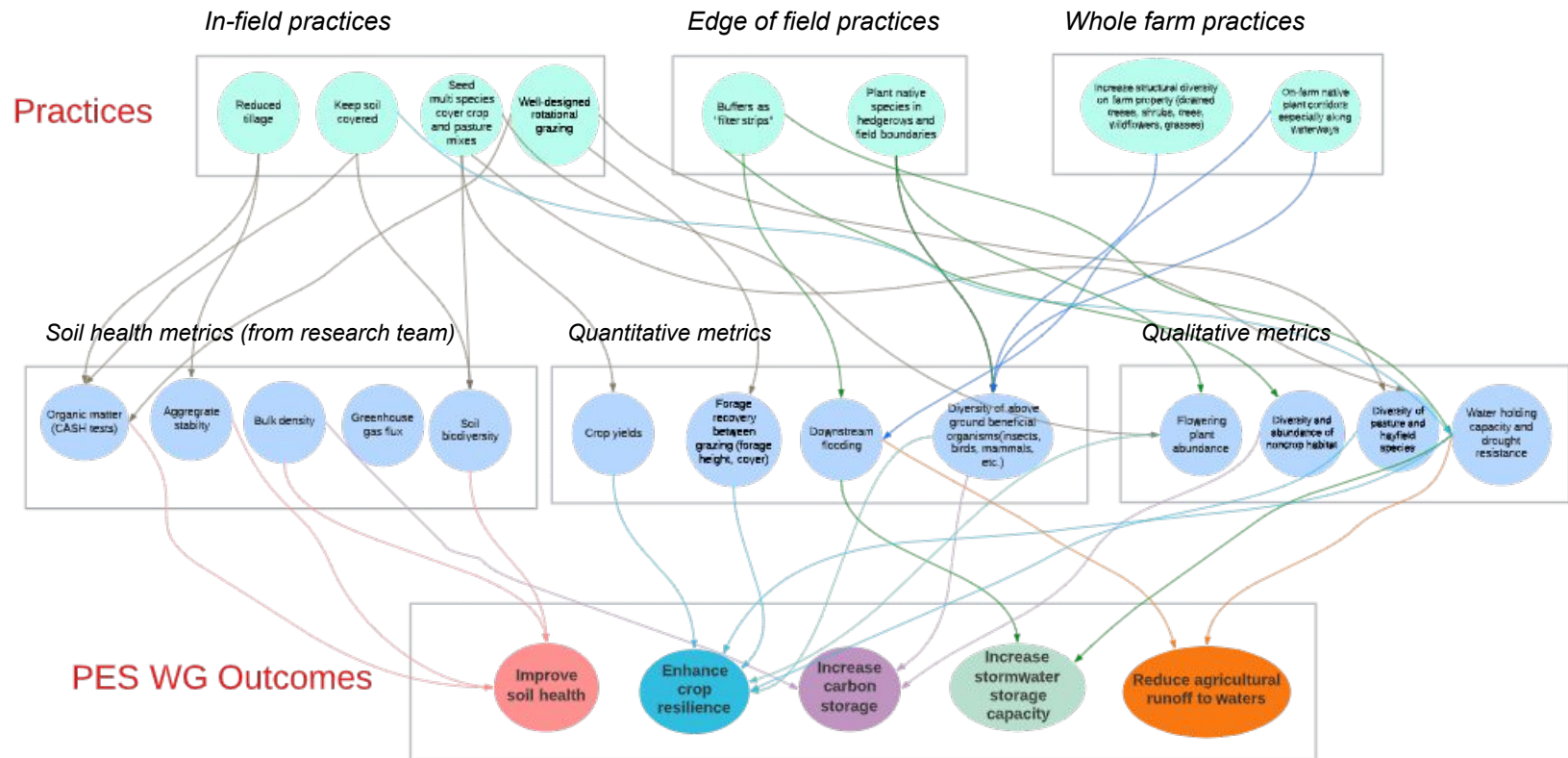
Buffers as  
"filter strips"

Plant native  
species in  
hedgerows and  
field boundaries

## *Whole farm practices*

Increase structural diversity  
on farm property (downed  
trees, shrubs, trees,  
wildflowers, grasses)

On-farm native  
plant corridors  
especially along  
waterways



## Next steps

- Setting dates and milestones on calendar for meaningful progress on whole farm approach
- WG subcommittee on whole farm approaches
- Incorporating whole farm approach into outreach and interviews with farmers
- What does research team need help with that WG can contribute to?
- Indigenous participation in process
- Expanding Ben's study to include edge of field/whole farm practices?

